

been reduced. Source selections are using oral and video presentations instead of the traditional multiple volumes of technical documentation that required weeks to review. Concurrent fact finding is being used on changes to existing contracts to speed up the contract change process by having the Government and contractor teams work together prior to a formal contract change proposal submittal to resolve technical and resource issues, thus simplifying the negotiation process and reducing the time necessary to put items on contract. Also key to reducing cycle times is the delegation of the approval authority from Washington D.C. to the local level on all changes except the very large dollar valued actions.

All of these initiatives are helping to ensure that the SBIRS Program Office continues to deliver high quality products that satisfy warfighter requirements with fewer personnel and smaller budgets.

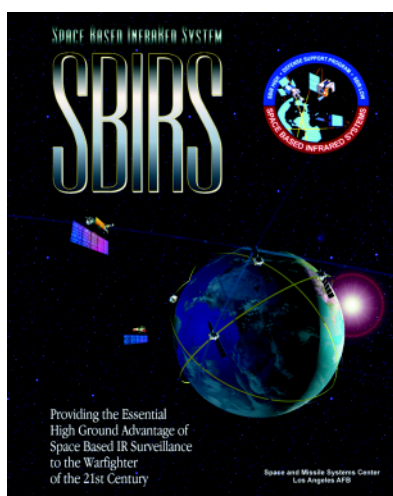
## SBIRS SUMMARY

The technology used for early warning has advanced considerably since medieval times, but the utility of securing the high ground advantage remains to this day.

The Defense Support Program has served this country well for over 25 years, and the SBIRS architecture will continue to perform the vital missions of **MISSILE WARNING, MISSILE DEFENSE, TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE AND BATTLESPACE CHARACTERIZATION** in the early 21st century.

SBIRS is an integral part of the Air Force and Department of Defense strategic visions for the Nation's security and will provide flexible, affordable and reliable utility across the entire range of military applications.

The SBIRS Team understands its important role as America's global sentry and is committed to providing the best Space Based Infrared System for the Nation.



### About the Cover:

*An artist's drawing showing SBIRS High and Low Satellites orbiting the Earth -- standing watch as the Nation's Global Sentry.*

### Acknowledgments:

*Many thanks to the graphics teams at TRW, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon Systems, Boeing and SMC for their contributions to this publication as well as to all those who assisted during the drafting, editing and printing of this handbook.*

**Visit SBIRS on the Web at:**

**<http://www.laafb.af.mil/SMC/MT/SBIRS.htm>**

This SBIRS Handbook is published by the SBIRS Program Office at Los Angeles AFB, California. The information contained within is intended to inform readers about the SBIRS Program at press time, and since the SBIRS Program is still under development, some of the information included may not necessarily reflect the current state of that development.

Any views or opinions expressed in this handbook are not necessarily those of the Department of the Air Force, the Air Force Materiel Command or the Space and Missile Systems Center.

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